



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: June 5, 2023

RE: NJSIAA Boys/Girls Swimming Non-Public Classifications – Tournament Regulations

Background

Currently, there are 33 non-public girls' swim teams and 37 non-public boys' swim teams that are each classified into 2 groups by enrollment. Participation in the state tournament has been declining over the past several seasons, especially in the non-public B group for both genders. For instance, 7 boys teams and 7 girls teams entered the non-public B tournament in 2022-2023.

Classifications Proposal – Non-Public Schools

NJSIAA recommends that the swimming classifications for non-public schools be changed to one group with 2 sections (North and South) classified by geography, not enrollment. This model will allow for more consistent participation in the tournament and increase the number of teams qualifying from 16 to 24. With this model, we will be able to award two sectional championships to the north and south winners for the first time. This model will also provide a more competitive balance to the tournament while minimizing travel in the early rounds. Lastly, unlike other sports where enrollment size may be a factor in determining the strength of a program, this is not a factor for swimming, as the smaller non-public schools have been very successful in the state tournament. This was unanimously approved by the swimming committee.

Tournament Regulation Proposal – Individual State Championships

New to the 2023-2024 school year, the individual state championships will combine the boys and girls finals into one event. NJSIAA staff and tournament staff feel this will be a very exciting event for the student-athletes and spectators by allowing both genders to compete at the same time. As a result, the 9th – 16th place participants during the preliminary races will not participate during the 2nd day of the state finals. In previous years, these participants did return on the 2nd day to compete in consolation events; however, the swimming rules do not allow the 9th – 16th place participants to medal at the state finals. This was approved by the swimming committee, although there were 3 coaches on the committee that voted against this proposal.